

109TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 3517

To enhance the services available to members of the Armed Forces returning from deployment in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom to assist such members in transitioning to civilian life, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 15, 2006

Mrs. CLINTON introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services

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## A BILL

To enhance the services available to members of the Armed Forces returning from deployment in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom to assist such members in transitioning to civilian life, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Heroes at Home Act  
5       of 2006”.

1 **SEC. 2. RESPONSIBILITIES OF TASK FORCE ON MENTAL**  
 2 **HEALTH ON TRANSITION TO CIVILIAN LIFE**  
 3 **OF MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL GUARD AND**  
 4 **RESERVE RETURNING FROM DEPLOYMENT**  
 5 **IN OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM AND OPER-**  
 6 **ATION ENDURING FREEDOM.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 723 of the National De-  
 8 fense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006 (Public Law  
 9 109–163; 119 Stat. 3348) is amended—

10 (1) by redesignating subsections (d), (e), (f),  
 11 and (g) as subsections (e), (f), (g), and (h), respec-  
 12 tively; and

13 (2) by inserting after subsection (c) the fol-  
 14 lowing new subsection (d):

15 “(d) ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON  
 16 TRANSITION TO CIVILIAN LIFE OF MEMBERS OF NA-  
 17 TIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE RETURNING FROM DE-  
 18 PLOYMENT IN OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM AND ENDUR-  
 19 ING FREEDOM.—

20 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In addition to the activities  
 21 required under subsection (c), the task force shall,  
 22 not later than 12 months after the date of the enact-  
 23 ment of the Heroes at Home Act of 2006, submit  
 24 to the Secretary a report containing an assessment  
 25 of, and recommendations for improving, assistance  
 26 to members of the National Guard and Reserve re-

1 turning from deployment in Operation Iraqi Free-  
2 dom or Operation Enduring Freedom, and their  
3 families, in transitioning to civilian employment  
4 upon their return from such deployment, including—

5 “(A) members who were self-employed be-  
6 fore deployment and seek to return to such em-  
7 ployment after deployment;

8 “(B) members who were students before  
9 deployment and seek to return to school or  
10 commence employment after deployment;

11 “(C) members who have experienced mul-  
12 tiple recent deployments; and

13 “(D) members who have been wounded or  
14 injured during deployment.

15 “(2) WORKING GROUP.—In conducting the as-  
16 sessment and making the recommendations required  
17 by paragraph (1), the task force shall utilize the as-  
18 sistance of a working group that consists of individ-  
19 uals selected by the task force from among individ-  
20 uals as follows:

21 “(A) With the concurrence of the Adminis-  
22 trator of the Small Business Administration,  
23 personnel of the Small Business Administra-  
24 tion.

1           “(B) Representatives of employers who  
2           employ members of the National Guard and Re-  
3           serve described in paragraph (1) on their return  
4           to civilian life as described in that paragraph.

5           “(C) Representatives of employee assist-  
6           ance organizations.

7           “(D) Representatives of associations of  
8           employers.

9           “(E) Representatives of organizations that  
10          assist wounded or injured members of the Na-  
11          tional Guard and Reserves in finding or sus-  
12          taining employment.

13          “(F) Representatives of such other public  
14          or private organizations and entities as the co-  
15          chairs of the task force, in consultation with the  
16          members of the task force, consider appro-  
17          priate.

18          “(3) REPORT ELEMENTS.—The report required  
19          by paragraph (1) shall include recommendations on  
20          the following:

21                 “(A) The provision of outreach and train-  
22                 ing to employers, employment assistance orga-  
23                 nizations, and associations of employers on the  
24                 employment, readjustment, and mental health  
25                 needs of members of the National Guard and

1 Reserve described in paragraph (1) upon their  
2 return from deployment as described in that  
3 paragraph.

4 “(B) The provision of outreach and train-  
5 ing to employers, employment assistance orga-  
6 nizations, and associations of employers on the  
7 needs of family members of such members.

8 “(C) The improvement of collaboration be-  
9 tween the public and private sectors in order to  
10 ensure the successful transition of such mem-  
11 bers into civilian employment upon their return  
12 from such deployment.

13 “(4) OTHER DUTIES.—In the period between  
14 the submittal of the report required by paragraph  
15 (1) and the termination of the task force under sub-  
16 section (h), the task force (including the working  
17 group established under paragraph (2)) shall serve  
18 as an advisor to the Assistance Center for Employ-  
19 ers and Employment Assistance Organizations es-  
20 tablished under section 3 of the Heroes at Home Act  
21 of 2006.

22 “(5) EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE ORGANIZATION  
23 DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ‘employment  
24 assistance organization’ means an organization or  
25 entity, whether public or private, that provides as-

1       sistance to individuals in finding or retaining em-  
2       ployment, including organizations and entities under  
3       military career support programs.”.

4       (b) REPORT.—Subsection (f) of such section, as re-  
5       designated by subsection (a)(1) of this section, is further  
6       amended—

7               (1) in the subsection heading, by striking “RE-  
8       PORT” and inserting “REPORTS”;

9               (2) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the  
10       following new paragraph (1):

11               “(1) IN GENERAL.—The report submitted to  
12       the Secretary under each of subsections (c) and (d)  
13       shall include—

14                       “(A) a description of the activities of the  
15       task force under such subsection;

16                       “(B) the assessment and recommendations  
17       required by such subsection; and

18                       “(C) such other matters relating to the ac-  
19       tivities of the task force under such subsection  
20       as the task force considers appropriate.”; and

21       (3) in paragraph (2)—

22                       (A) by striking “the report under para-  
23       graph (1)” and inserting “a report under para-  
24       graph (1)”;

1 (B) by striking “the report as” and insert-  
 2 ing “such report as”.

3 (c) PLAN MATTERS.—Subsection (g) of such section,  
 4 as redesignated by subsection (a)(1) of this section, is fur-  
 5 ther amended—

6 (1) by striking “the report from the task force  
 7 under subsection (e)(1)” and inserting “a report  
 8 from the task force under subsection (f)(1)”; and

9 (2) by inserting “contained in such report”  
 10 after “the task force” the second place it appears.

11 (d) TERMINATION.—Subsection (h) of such section,  
 12 as redesignated by subsection (a)(1) of this section, is fur-  
 13 ther amended—

14 (1) by inserting “with respect to the assessment  
 15 and recommendations required by subsection (d)”  
 16 after “the task force”; and

17 (2) by striking “subsection (e)(2)” and insert-  
 18 ing “subsection (f)(2)”.

19 **SEC. 3. ASSISTANCE CENTER FOR EMPLOYERS AND EM-**  
 20 **PLOYMENT ASSISTANCE ORGANIZATIONS.**

21 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF CENTER.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense  
 23 shall establish an office to assist employers, employ-  
 24 ment assistance organizations, and associations of  
 25 employers in facilitating the successful transition to

1 civilian employment of members of the National  
2 Guard and Reserve returning from deployment in  
3 Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring  
4 Freedom.

5 (2) DESIGNATION.—The office established  
6 under this subsection shall be known as the “Assist-  
7 ance Center for Employers and Employment Assist-  
8 ance Organizations” (in this section referred to as  
9 the “Center”).

10 (3) HEAD.—The Secretary shall designate an  
11 individual to act as the head of the Center.

12 (4) INTEGRATION.—In establishing the Center,  
13 the Secretary shall ensure close communication be-  
14 tween the Center and the military departments, in-  
15 cluding the commands of the reserve components of  
16 the Armed Forces.

17 (b) FUNCTIONS.—The Center shall have the following  
18 functions:

19 (1) To provide education and technical assist-  
20 ance to employers, employment assistance organiza-  
21 tions, and associations of employers to assist them  
22 in facilitating the successful transition to civilian  
23 employment of members of the National Guard and  
24 Reserve described in subsection (a) on their return  
25 from deployment as described in that subsection.

1           (2) To provide education and technical assist-  
 2           ance to employers, employment assistance organiza-  
 3           tions, and associations of employers to assist them  
 4           in facilitating the successful adjustment of family  
 5           members of the National Guard and Reserve to the  
 6           deployment and return from deployment of members  
 7           of the National Guard and Reserve as described in  
 8           that subsection.

9           (c) RESOURCES TO BE PROVIDED.—

10           (1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the func-  
 11           tions specified in subsection (b), the Center shall  
 12           provide employers, employment assistance organiza-  
 13           tions, and associations of employers resources, serv-  
 14           ices, and assistance that include the following:

15                   (A) Guidelines on best practices and effec-  
 16                   tive strategies.

17                   (B) Education on the physical and mental  
 18                   health difficulties that can and may be experi-  
 19                   enced by members of the National Guard and  
 20                   Reserve described in subsection (a) on their re-  
 21                   turn from deployment as described in that sub-  
 22                   section in transitioning to civilian employment,  
 23                   including difficulties arising from Post Trau-  
 24                   matic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and traumatic  
 25                   brain injury (TBI), including education on—

1 (i) the detection of warning signs of  
2 such difficulties;

3 (ii) the medical, mental health, and  
4 employment services available to such  
5 members, including materials on services  
6 offered by the Department of Defense, the  
7 Department of Veterans Affairs (including  
8 through the vet center program under sec-  
9 tion 1712A of title 38, United States  
10 Code), the Department of Labor, military  
11 support programs, and community mental  
12 health clinics; and

13 (iii) the mechanisms for referring  
14 such members for services described in  
15 clause (ii) and for other medical and men-  
16 tal health screening and care when appro-  
17 priate.

18 (C) Education on the range and types of  
19 potential physical and mental health effects of  
20 deployment and post-deployment adjustment on  
21 family members of members of the National  
22 Guard and Reserve described in subsection (a),  
23 including education on—

1 (i) the detection of warning signs on  
2 such effects on family members of mem-  
3 bers of the National Guard and Reserves;

4 (ii) the medical, mental health, and  
5 employment services available to such fam-  
6 ily members, including materials on such  
7 services as described in subparagraph  
8 (B)(ii); and

9 (iii) mechanisms for referring such  
10 family members for services described in  
11 clause (ii) and for medical and mental  
12 health screening and care when appro-  
13 priate.

14 (D) Education on mechanisms, strategies,  
15 and resources for accommodating and employ-  
16 ing wounded or injured members of the Na-  
17 tional Guard and Reserves in work settings.

18 (2) PROVISION OF RESOURCES.—The Center  
19 shall make resources, services, and assistance avail-  
20 able under this subsection through such mechanisms  
21 as the head of the Center considers appropriate, in-  
22 cluding the Internet, video conferencing, telephone  
23 services, workshops, trainings, presentations, group  
24 forums, and other mechanisms.

1 (d) PERSONNEL AND OTHER RESOURCES.—The Sec-  
2 retary of Defense shall assign to the Center such per-  
3 sonnel, funding, and other resources as are required to  
4 ensure the effective discharge by the Center of the func-  
5 tions under subsection (b).

6 (e) REPORTS ON ACTIVITIES.—

7 (1) ANNUAL REPORT BY CENTER.—Not later  
8 than one year after the establishment of the Center,  
9 and annually thereafter, the head of the Center, in  
10 consultation with the Department of Defense Task  
11 Force on Mental Health (while in effect), shall sub-  
12 mit to the Secretary of Defense a written report on  
13 the progress and outcomes of the Center during the  
14 one-year period ending on the date of such report.

15 (2) TRANSMITTAL TO CONGRESS.—Not later  
16 than 60 days after receipt of a report under para-  
17 graph (1), the Secretary shall transmit such report  
18 to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate  
19 and the House of Representatives, together with—

20 (A) such comments on such report, and  
21 such assessment of the effectiveness of the Cen-  
22 ter, as the Secretary considers appropriate; and

23 (B) such recommendations on means of  
24 improving the effectiveness of the Center as the  
25 Secretary considers appropriate.

1           (3) AVAILABILITY TO PUBLIC.—The Secretary  
2       shall take appropriate actions to make each report  
3       under paragraph (2) available to the public, includ-  
4       ing through the Internet website of the Center.

5       (f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

6           (1) EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE ORGANIZA-  
7       TION.—The term “employment assistance organiza-  
8       tion” means an organization or entity, whether pub-  
9       lic or private, that provides assistance to individuals  
10      in finding or retaining employment, including orga-  
11      nizations and entities under military career support  
12      programs.

13          (2) DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TASK FORCE ON  
14      MENTAL HEALTH.—The term “Department of De-  
15      fense Task Force on Mental Health” means the De-  
16      partment of Defense Task Force on Mental Health  
17      established under section 723 of the National De-  
18      fense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006, as  
19      amended by section 2 of this Act.

20      (g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
21      authorized to be appropriated to the Department of De-  
22      fense to carry out this section amounts as follows:

23           (1) For fiscal year 2007, \$5,000,000.

24           (2) For each of fiscal years 2008 through 2011,  
25      such sums as may be necessary.

1 **SEC. 4. GRANTS ON ASSISTANCE IN COMMUNITY-BASED**  
2 **SETTINGS FOR MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL**  
3 **GUARD AND RESERVE AND THEIR FAMILIES**  
4 **AFTER DEPLOYMENT IN OPERATION IRAQI**  
5 **FREEDOM AND OPERATION ENDURING FREE-**  
6 **DOM.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense may  
8 award grants to eligible entities to carry out demonstra-  
9 tion projects to assess the feasibility and advisability of  
10 utilizing community-based settings for the provision of as-  
11 sistance to members of the National Guard and Reserve  
12 who serve in Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation En-  
13 during Freedom, and their families, after the return of  
14 such members from deployment in Operation Iraqi Free-  
15 dom or Operation Enduring Freedom, as the case may  
16 be, including—

17 (1) services to improve the reuniting of such  
18 members of the National Guard and Reserve and  
19 their families;

20 (2) education to increase awareness of the phys-  
21 ical and mental health difficulties that members of  
22 the National Guard and Reserve can and may expe-  
23 rience on their return from such deployment, includ-  
24 ing education on—

25 (A) Post Traumatic Stress Disorder  
26 (PTSD) and traumatic brain injury (TBI); and

1 (B) mechanisms for the referral of such  
2 members of the National Guard and Reserve  
3 for medical and mental health screening and  
4 care when necessary; and

5 (3) education to increase awareness of the phys-  
6 ical and mental health difficulties that family mem-  
7 bers of such members of the National Guard and  
8 Reserve can and may experience on the return of  
9 such members from such deployment, including edu-  
10 cation on—

11 (A) depression, anxiety, and relationship  
12 problems; and

13 (B) mechanisms for medical and mental  
14 health screening and care when appropriate.

15 (b) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—An entity eligible for the  
16 award of a grant under this section is any public or private  
17 non-profit organization, such as a community mental  
18 health clinic, family support organization, military support  
19 organization, law enforcement agency, community college,  
20 or public school.

21 (c) APPLICATION.—An eligible entity seeking a grant  
22 under this section shall submit to the Secretary of Defense  
23 an application therefor in such manner, and containing  
24 such information, as the Secretary may require for pur-  
25 poses of this section, including a description of how such

1 entity will work with the Department of Defense, the De-  
2 partment of Veterans Affairs, State health agencies, other  
3 appropriate Federal, State, and local agencies, family sup-  
4 port organizations, and other community organization in  
5 undertaking activities described in subsection (a).

6 (d) ANNUAL REPORTS BY GRANT RECIPIENTS.—An  
7 entity awarded a grant under this section shall submit to  
8 the Secretary of Defense on an annual basis a report on  
9 the activities undertaken by such entity during the pre-  
10 ceding year utilizing amounts under the grant. Each re-  
11 port shall include such information as the Secretary shall  
12 specify for purposes of this subsection.

13 (e) ANNUAL REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year  
15 after the date of the enactment of this Act, and an-  
16 nually thereafter, the Secretary of Defense shall sub-  
17 mit to Congress a report on activities undertaken  
18 under the grants awarded under this section. The  
19 report shall include recommendations for legislative,  
20 programmatic, or administrative action to improve  
21 or enhance activities under the grants awarded  
22 under this section.

23 (2) AVAILABILITY TO PUBLIC.—The Secretary  
24 shall take appropriate actions to make each report  
25 under this subsection available to the public.

1 **SEC. 5. LONGITUDINAL STUDY ON TRAUMATIC BRAIN IN-**  
2 **JURY INCURRED BY MEMBERS OF THE**  
3 **ARMED FORCES IN OPERATION IRAQI FREE-**  
4 **DOM AND OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM.**

5 (a) STUDY REQUIRED.—The Secretary of Defense  
6 shall, in consultation with the Secretary of Veterans Af-  
7 fairs, provide for a longitudinal study on the effects of  
8 traumatic brain injury incurred by members of the Armed  
9 Forces in Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Endur-  
10 ing Freedom. The duration of the longitudinal study shall  
11 be 15 years.

12 (b) SELECTION OF ENTITY FOR CONDUCT OF  
13 STUDY.—The Secretary of Defense shall, in consultation  
14 with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, select an entity to  
15 conduct the study required by subsection (a) from among  
16 private organizations or entities qualified to conduct the  
17 study.

18 (c) ELEMENTS.—The study required by subsection  
19 (a) shall address the following:

20 (1) The long-term effects of traumatic brain in-  
21 jury on the overall readiness of the Armed Forces.

22 (2) Mechanisms for improving body armor and  
23 helmets in order to protect members of the Armed  
24 Forces from sustaining traumatic brain injuries.

25 (3) The long-term physical and mental health  
26 consequences of traumatic brain injuries incurred by

1 members of the Armed Forces during service in Op-  
2 eration Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring Free-  
3 dom.

4 (4) The health care, mental health care, and re-  
5 habilitation needs of such members for such injuries  
6 after the completion of inpatient treatment through  
7 the Department of Defense, the Department of Vet-  
8 erans Affairs, or both.

9 (5) The type and availability of long-term care  
10 rehabilitation programs and services within and out-  
11 side the Department of Defense and the Department  
12 of Veterans Affairs for such members for such inju-  
13 ries, including community-based programs and serv-  
14 ices and in-home programs and services.

15 (d) REPORTS.—

16 (1) PERIODIC AND FINAL REPORTS.—After the  
17 third, seventh, eleventh, and fifteenth years of the  
18 study required by subsection (a), the Secretary of  
19 Defense shall, in consultation with the Secretary of  
20 Veterans Affairs, submit to the appropriate elements  
21 of the Department of Defense and the Department  
22 of Veterans Affairs, and to Congress, a comprehen-  
23 sive report on the results of the study during the  
24 preceding years. Each report shall include the fol-  
25 lowing:

1 (A) Current information on the cumulative  
2 outcomes of the study.

3 (B) In the case of a report to elements of  
4 the Department of Defense—

5 (i) such recommendations as the Sec-  
6 retary of Defense considers appropriate for  
7 programmatic and administrative action to  
8 improve body armor and helmets to protect  
9 members of the Armed Forces from sus-  
10 taining traumatic brain injuries; and

11 (ii) such other recommendations as  
12 the Secretary considers appropriate based  
13 on the outcomes of the study.

14 (C) In the case of a report to elements of  
15 the Department of Veterans Affairs—

16 (i) such recommendations as the Sec-  
17 retary of Veterans Affairs considers appro-  
18 priate for programmatic and administra-  
19 tive action to improve long-term care and  
20 rehabilitative programs and services for  
21 members of the Armed Forces with trau-  
22 matic brain injury; and

23 (ii) such other recommendations as  
24 the Secretary considers appropriate based  
25 on the outcomes of the study.

1 (D) In the case of a report to Congress—

2 (i) such recommendations as the Sec-  
3 retary of Defense considers appropriate for  
4 legislative action to improve body armor  
5 and helmets to protect members of the  
6 Armed Forces from sustaining traumatic  
7 brain injuries;

8 (ii) such recommendations as the Sec-  
9 retary of Veterans Affairs considers appro-  
10 priate for legislative action to improve  
11 long-term care and rehabilitative programs  
12 and services for members of the Armed  
13 Forces with traumatic brain injury; and

14 (iii) such other recommendations as  
15 the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary  
16 of Veterans Affairs jointly consider appro-  
17 priate based on the outcomes of the study.

18 (2) AVAILABILITY TO PUBLIC.—The Secretary  
19 of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs  
20 shall jointly take appropriate actions to make each  
21 report under this subsection available to the public.

22 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
23 authorized to be appropriated to the Department of De-  
24 fense to carry out this section amounts as follows:

25 (1) For fiscal year 2007, \$5,000,000.

1           (2) For each of fiscal years 2008 through 2013,  
2           such sums as may be necessary.

3 **SEC. 6. TRAINING CURRICULA FOR FAMILY CAREGIVERS**  
4                       **ON CARE AND ASSISTANCE FOR MEMBERS**  
5                       **AND FORMER MEMBERS OF THE ARMED**  
6                       **FORCES WITH TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY IN-**  
7                       **CURRED IN OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM AND**  
8                       **OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM.**

9           (a) TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY FAMILY CAREGIVER  
10 PANEL.—

11           (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of De-  
12 fense shall, in consultation with the Secretary of  
13 Veterans Affairs, establish within the Department of  
14 Defense a panel to develop coordinated, uniform,  
15 and consistent training curricula to be used in train-  
16 ing family members in the provision of care and as-  
17 sistance to members and former members of the  
18 Armed Forces for traumatic brain injuries incurred  
19 during service in the Armed Forces in Operation  
20 Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom.

21           (2) DESIGNATION OF PANEL.—The panel estab-  
22 lished under paragraph (1) shall be known as the  
23 “Traumatic Brain Injury Family Caregiver Panel”.

24           (3) MEMBERS.—The Traumatic Brain Injury  
25 Family Caregiver Panel established under paragraph

1 (1) shall consist of 15 members appointed by the  
2 Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Sec-  
3 retary of Veterans Affairs, equally represented from  
4 among—

5 (A) physicians, nurses, rehabilitation  
6 therapists, and other individuals with an exper-  
7 tise in caring for and assisting individuals with  
8 traumatic brain injury, including those who spe-  
9 cialize in caring for and assisting individuals  
10 with traumatic brain injury incurred in war;

11 (B) representatives of family caregivers or  
12 family caregiver associations;

13 (C) Department of Defense and Depart-  
14 ment of Veterans Affairs health and medical  
15 personnel with expertise in traumatic brain in-  
16 jury, and Department of Defense personnel and  
17 readiness representatives with expertise in trau-  
18 matic brain injury;

19 (D) representatives of military service or-  
20 ganizations who specialize in matters relating to  
21 disabled veterans;

22 (E) representatives of veterans service or-  
23 ganizations who specialize in matters relating to  
24 disabled veterans;

1 (F) psychologists or other individuals with  
2 expertise in the mental health treatment and  
3 care of individuals with traumatic brain injury;

4 (G) experts in the development of training  
5 curricula;

6 (H) researchers and academicians who  
7 study traumatic brain injury; and

8 (I) any other individuals the Secretary con-  
9 siderers appropriate.

10 (4) MEETINGS.—The Traumatic Brain Injury  
11 Family Caregiver Panel shall meet not less than  
12 monthly.

13 (b) DEVELOPMENT OF CURRICULA.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Traumatic Brain Injury  
15 Family Caregiver Panel shall develop training cur-  
16 ricula to be utilized during the provision of training  
17 to family members of members and former members  
18 of the Armed Forces described in subsection (a) on  
19 techniques, strategies, and skills for care and assist-  
20 ance for such members and former members with  
21 the traumatic brain injuries described in that sub-  
22 section.

23 (2) SCOPE OF CURRICULA.—The curricula  
24 shall—

1 (A) be based on empirical research and  
2 validated techniques; and

3 (B) shall provide for training that permits  
4 recipients to tailor caregiving to the unique cir-  
5 cumstances of the member or former member of  
6 the Armed Forces receiving care.

7 (3) PARTICULAR REQUIREMENTS.—In devel-  
8 oping the curricula, the Traumatic Brain Injury  
9 Family Caregiver Panel shall—

10 (A) specify appropriate training commen-  
11 surate with the severity of traumatic brain in-  
12 jury; and

13 (B) identify appropriate care and assist-  
14 ance to be provided for the degree of severity of  
15 traumatic brain injury for caregivers of various  
16 levels of skill and capability.

17 (4) USE OF EXISTING MATERIALS.—In devel-  
18 oping the curricula, the Traumatic Brain Injury  
19 Family Caregiver Panel shall utilize and enhance  
20 any existing training curricular, materials, and re-  
21 sources applicable to such curricula as the Panel  
22 considers appropriate.

23 (5) CONSULTATION.—In developing the cur-  
24 ricula, the Traumatic Brain Injury Family Caregiver

1 Panel shall consult with the Army Reserve Forces  
2 Policy Committee, as appropriate.

3 (6) DEADLINE FOR DEVELOPMENT.—The  
4 Traumatic Brain Injury Family Caregiver Panel  
5 shall develop the curricula not later than one year  
6 after the date of the enactment of this Act.

7 (c) DISSEMINATION OF CURRICULA.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense  
9 shall, in consultation with the Traumatic Brain In-  
10 jury Family Caregiver Panel, develop mechanisms  
11 for the dissemination of the curricula developed  
12 under subsection (b) to health care professionals re-  
13 ferred to in paragraph (2) who treat or otherwise  
14 work with members and former members of the  
15 Armed Forces with traumatic brain injury incurred  
16 in Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring  
17 Freedom. In developing such mechanisms, the Sec-  
18 retary may utilize and enhance existing mechanisms,  
19 including the Military Severely Injured Center.

20 (2) HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS.—The  
21 health care professionals referred to in this para-  
22 graph are the following:

23 (A) Personnel at military medical treat-  
24 ment facilities.

1 (B) Personnel at the polytrauma centers of  
2 the Department of Veterans Affairs.

3 (C) Personnel and care managers at the  
4 Military Severely Injured Center.

5 (D) Such other health care professionals of  
6 the Department of Defense as the Secretary  
7 considers appropriate.

8 (E) Such other health care professionals of  
9 the Department of Veterans Affairs as the Sec-  
10 retary of Defense, in consultation with the Sec-  
11 retary of Veterans Affairs, considers appro-  
12 priate.

13 (3) SCOPE.—The mechanisms developed under  
14 paragraph (1) shall include the provision of refresher  
15 training in the curricula developed under subsection  
16 (a) for the health care professional referred to in  
17 paragraph (2) not less often than once every six  
18 months.

19 (4) PROVISION OF TRAINING TO FAMILY CARE-  
20 GIVERS.—

21 (A) IN GENERAL.—Health care profes-  
22 sionals referred to in paragraph (2) who are  
23 trained in the curricula developed under sub-  
24 section (b) shall provide training to family  
25 members of members and former members of

1 the Armed Forces who incur traumatic brain  
2 injuries during service in the Operation Iraqi  
3 Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom in  
4 the care and assistance to be provided for such  
5 injuries.

6 (B) TIMING OF TRAINING.—Training  
7 under this paragraph shall, to the extent prac-  
8 ticable, be provided to family members while the  
9 member or former member concerned is under-  
10 going treatment at a facility of the Department  
11 of Defense or Department of Veterans Affairs,  
12 as applicable, in order to ensure that such fam-  
13 ily members receive practice on the provision of  
14 such care and assistance under the guidance of  
15 qualified health professionals.

16 (C) PARTICULARIZED TRAINING.—Train-  
17 ing provided under this paragraph to family  
18 members of a particular member or former  
19 member shall be tailored to the particular care  
20 needs of such member or former member and  
21 the particular caregiving needs of such family  
22 members.

23 (5) QUALITY ASSURANCE.—The Secretary shall  
24 develop mechanisms to ensure quality in the provi-  
25 sion of training under this section to health care

professionals referred to in paragraph (2) and in the provision of such training under paragraph (4) by such health care professionals.

(6) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the development of the curricula required by subsection (b), and annually thereafter, the Traumatic Brain Injury Family Caregiver Training Panel shall submit to the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and to Congress, a report on the following:

(A) The actions undertaken under this subsection.

(B) The results of the tracking of outcomes based on training developed and provided under this section.

(C) Recommendations for the improvement of training developed and provided under this section.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Department of Defense to carry out this section amounts as follows:

(1) For fiscal year 2007, \$5,000,000.

(2) For each of fiscal years 2008 through 2011, such sums as may be necessary.

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